

App. No.: 10/711024
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Page 2 of 2


REMARKS

In spite of the fact that the Sone reference 6,534,880 was treated in the Background portion of this application and the deficiencies of its multi-part construction, the Examiner has relied on it solely in rejecting claim 1, the sole independent claim. Furthermore the Examiner has stated that it shows an integral construction which it clearly does not.

Claims 2, 6-10, and 16-20 depend directly or indirectly on claim 1 and further call for specific portions of the integral construction to be hardened. The Sone reference makes no representation that any of the parts is hardened. And the Examiner proposes to anticipate these distinctions and claims that they are obvious from the alleged teaching of Tajima et al. This reference does teach selective hardening of parts of an axle shaft, but not one of the configuration shown in Sone nor of portions of a one way clutch.

Therefore it is most respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not made out a prima facie case of anticipation and he is most respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the stated rejections.

Respectfully submitted:



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